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*Michael L. Parson*

GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MISSOURI

August 16, 2019

Mr. Jim Gulliford  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency, Region 7  
11201 Renner Blvd.  
Lenexa, KS 66219

Dear Mr. Gulliford,

This letter addresses the annual funding the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (Department) receives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. This act allocates at least 40% of the Water Quality Management Planning Assistance Grant for pass-through funding to regional public comprehensive planning organizations (RPOs) and interstate organizations. If, after RPOs are first consulted, it is determined that the 40% allocation "will not result in significant participation by such organizations in water quality management planning and not significantly assist in development and implementation of the plan described in this paragraph and achieving the goals of the Act..." states may use any remaining 604(b) funds for water-quality planning activities.

In accordance with Section 205(j)(3) of the Clean Water Act and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance from August 18, 1987, the Department notified by email Missouri RPO directors of the opportunity to apply for available Section 604(b) funds, and sent requests for proposals to all RPOs encouraging them to submit proposals. The Department did not receive a sufficient number of applications to use all of the FY15/FY16 grant funds. Three projects were funded and the remaining unobligated funds total approximately \$92,500.

I propose to reallocate the unobligated funds to support water-quality planning and monitoring work within watersheds impacted by Missouri's new numeric nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs. This monitoring will enable the state to assess more waters in the state and advance a core budget metric for the program.

Your concurrence regarding this decision is requested and I thank you for considering this request. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Wieberg of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources at 573-751-6721.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Michael L. Parson", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael L. Parson  
Governor

c: Carol S. Comer, Director, Department of Natural Resources

October 18, 2019

The Honorable Andrew Wheeler  
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Administrator Wheeler:

We write to you on behalf of the nation's governors regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed rule, "Updating Regulations on Water Quality Certification" (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2019-0405).

As governors, we are committed to ensuring that state authority to maintain and protect water quality is preserved. The Clean Water Act makes clear that it is the policy of Congress to recognize, preserve and protect the primary responsibilities and rights of States to prevent, reduce and eliminate water pollution. It is critical that States are actively involved in a cooperative effort to develop any policy and administrative procedures that impact water quality.

We are concerned that the proposed rule would impact vital authority that Congress preserved for the States under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. We urge EPA to take these concerns into consideration before the publication of any final rule, and we ask that you create meaningful and substantive opportunities for governors to provide input on its development.

We stand ready to work with you to ensure any regulatory changes protect health and safety, provide certainty and stability, and preserve states' authority.

Sincerely,



Governor Janet Mills  
Chair  
Natural Resources Committee



Governor Larry Hogan  
Chair  
National Governors Association



February 28, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write concerning media reports that the Administration is exploring changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program due to a recent decision by a three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Wyoming is home to five refineries that are disproportionately harmed by the RFS. In Wyoming, the refining and petrochemical industry employees nearly 10,000 individuals and contribute \$266 million dollars in local and state tax revenue.

If allowed to stand, the decision will put small refineries in Wyoming under severe financial strain and thousands of jobs at risk. The decision will dramatically increase RFS compliance costs for refineries of all sizes and raise gasoline prices for Wyoming drivers. We urge you, to appeal this decision to an *en banc* panel of the Tenth Circuit and, if necessary, the U.S. Supreme Court.

Since the decision, the price of RFS compliance credits (or RINs) has already doubled. If not appealed, RIN prices will likely increase exponentially. Higher RIN prices eventually means higher gasoline prices for Wyoming families and businesses. We trust that you share our view that higher fuel prices and fewer jobs are the last thing the American public or economy need.

There is still plenty of blending occurring through the larger refineries. Based on U.S. Energy Information Data ethanol blending for 2019 was at an all-time high. In addition, Congress recently provided an additional incentive for the biofuels lobby in the biodiesel blenders tax credit, which was recently retroactively extended until 2022.

During the prior Administration, Wyoming refiners suffered under misguided and punishing energy policy. I am thankful you understand the importance of high paying manufacturing jobs in our rural communities. I ask that you keep compliance costs low and appeal this misguided decision.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon  
Governor of Wyoming



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 7**

11201 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

MAR 20 2020

The Honorable Michael L. Parson  
Governor of Missouri  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 720  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

Thank you for your letter dated August 16, 2019, requesting the reallocation of Clean Water Act § 604(b) grant funds for fiscal years 15 and 16 to other purposes within the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7 has been working closely with the MDNR on this request.

An examination of the MDNR's CWA § 604(b) grants showed that funds for fiscal years 15 and 16 have passed the timeframe when the state may request a reallocation of the funds. The CWA § 604(c)(1) states that all funds given to a state pursuant to CWA § 604 are only available for obligation by a state during the fiscal year that the funds were authorized and the following fiscal year. Any request for reallocation of funds from their original purpose must occur within the applicable two-year timeframe, which has expired for the requested grants. The region continues to work with the MDNR to ensure adequate and timely allocation, obligation, and expenditure of all grant funding.

If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (913) 551-7303 or Joshua Tapp, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Director, at (913) 551-7606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Gulliford".

James B. Gulliford



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**THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802  
340-774-0001**

Mr. Peter Lopez  
Regional Administrator  
Region 2  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
290 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-1866

**Re: U.S.V.I. Designated Lead Agency for Pesticide Control Program**

Dear Administrator Lopez:

Please be advised that the Department of Planning and Natural Resources ("DPNR") is the lead agency responsible for administering the U.S. Virgin Islands' pesticide control program, including those implementing requirements of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. § 136 *et seq.*). The Department is authorized and directed by statute to administer and enforce all laws pertaining to pesticide control, to perform such functions as may be required by federal law, to participate in federally-aided projects or programs and to serve as the state agency of the U.S. Virgin Islands for participation in all programs of the United States Government relating to its authorized fields of activity. 3 V.I.C. §§ 401(a)(6) and (14).

The Virgin Islands Pesticide Control Act, 12 V.I.C. § 801 *et seq.*, vests jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to the distribution, sale, use and transportation of pesticides exclusively in the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. 12 V.I.C. § 803(a). In particular, the Pesticide Control Act provides the Commissioner the authority to adopt regulations as have been or may be prescribed with respect to pesticides by agencies of the United States Government. 12 V.I.C. § 803(d). The Commissioner is also DPNR's contact with primary responsibility for submission and implementation of the plan and for coordination with all other agencies is the head of DPNR, 3 V.I.C. § 400(b).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor